



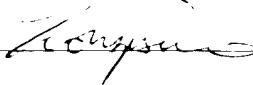
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being transmitted therewith) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Sequence, Washington, D.C. 20231

Christina Lonzisero

(Print Name)

Date April 16, 2001

(Signature) 

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of Kessler et al.  
Serial No.: 09/530,746  
Filed: November 16, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1656  
Examiner: Strzelecka, T.  
Attorney Docket No.: 4817/0Q

**For: SPECIFIC AND SENSITIVE NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION METHOD**

**Second Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Sequence  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Alameda, CA  
April 16, 2001

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.115, please enter the following amendments and consider the remarks below.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 14, line 29, after "B and C", insert --:HCV (SEQ ID NO: 6) and Human (SEQ ID NO: 7)--.

On page 15, line 4, after "suitable region", insert --(SEQ ID NO: 8)--.

On page 15, line 8, after "HGBV-B", insert --(SEQ ID NO: 9)--.